



DOVER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1956.

C. F. LYNCH, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



Health Department,
Brook House,
DOVER.



DOVER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

HEALTH COMMITTEE

To 1st June, 1956

His Worship the Mayor
(Councillor S. F. Kingsland, J.P.)

Chairman

Alderman (Mrs.) E. Long

Members

Alderman (Major) G. R. Rowe	Councillor (Mrs.) A. F. Brazier
Councillor E. A. Bushell	Councillor (Mrs.) D. Bushell
Councillor (Mrs.) E. M. S. Coatsworth	Councillor G. E. Gasken
Councillor F. A. Holmes, J.P.	Councillor F. W. Marsh
Councillor W. T. Muge	Councillor A. H. Newland
Councillor E. Weston	

From 1st June, 1956

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Members

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Councillor F. W. Marsh	Councillor A. H. Newland
Councillor E. Weston.	

Health Department,
Brook House,
Dover.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Dover
acting as the Port Health Authority of the Port of Dover.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Dover Port Health Authority for the year 1956, which report has been prepared on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular 33/52 dated 6th November, 1952.

The progressive increase noted during the post-war years in the amount of shipping entering the port has continued, and figures for the year in respect of both tonnage and number of vessels, compared with those recorded for 1946, have shown an increase of over 100 per cent., while passenger traffic has increased four-fold during the same period.

The incidence of infectious disease in ships arriving at the port during the year showed no unusual features and, in spite of many refugees arriving from Hungary and Egypt towards the end of the year, nothing untoward in the way of epidemic or quarantinable disease was encountered.

Although more ship inspections were carried out than during 1955, no nuisances or defects requiring notices were found.

There was a considerable increase in the amount of food-stuffs imported compared with imports in recent years. Details of consignments and results of inspections are described in the Section on Food Inspection.

Medical Inspection of Aliens showed a further increase in numbers of aliens arriving, but the main burden of the work was in the spread of scheduled arrivals which, at times, covered practically whole twenty-four hour periods during the summer season.

I have to thank H. M. Customs and Immigration Authorities, British Railways and other Departments associated with the work of the Port Health Department for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. F. LYNCH,

Medical Officer of Health.

March, 1957.



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SECTION I - STAFFTABLE A

The following changes occurred during the year:-

Nature of Appointment	Remarks
Port and Aliens Nurse	Mrs. K. A. Walker resigned with effect from 28th September, 1956. Duties carried on by reliefs pending permanent appointment.
Senior Port Health and Food Inspector (combined appointment with that of Senior Public Health Inspector, Borough of Dover).	Mr. J. G. B. Whorwell retired with effect from 31st January, 1956. Mr. B. C. Middlebrook, Cert. S.I.J.B., Cert. Meat and Food Inspection, appointed to office with effect from 1st February, 1956.
Port Health and Food Inspector (combined appointment with that of District Public Health Inspector, Borough of Dover).	Mr. F. W. Bromley resigned with effect from 14th October, 1956. Mr. E. J. Hacker, Cert. S.I.J.B., Cert. Meat and Food Inspection, appointed with effect from 3rd December, 1956. Mr. V. E. Carr, Cert. S.I.J.B., appointed with effect from 1st February, 1956.

SECTION II - AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of Ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Public Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports	3,863	4,445,348	36 [#]	88	11
Coastwise	454	185,593	-	68	-
TOTAL	4,317	4,630,941	36 [#]	156	11

[#]Excluding vessels from cross-channel ports.

SECTION III - CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C

PASSENGER TRAFFIC	{	(Number of Passengers	INWARDS	905,451
			{	(Number of Passengers	OUTWARDS	879,394
CARGO TRAFFIC	{	(Principal IMPORTS	General merchandise, wines, foodstuffs, coal and timber.	
			{	(Principal EXPORTS	Cars and general merchandise.	
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive:						
				South and West African;	South American;	European; Iberian;
				Scandinavian and Baltic.		

SECTION IV - INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

NIL

SECTION V - WATER SUPPLY

NO CHANGE

SECTION VI

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952.

NO CHANGE

SECTION VII - SMALLPOX

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district:

The River Hospitals,
(Long Reach),
DARTFORD,
Kent.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews:

Ambulance of Canterbury City Council available on request.

Special ambulance crew provided by the same Authority.

3. Name of smallpox consultant available:

Dr. R. Fletcher,
30 Cheriton Gardens,
FOLKESTONE,
Kent.

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis for smallpox:

Central Public Health Laboratory,
Colindale Avenue,
Colindale,
LONDON, N.W.9.

SECTION VIII - VENEREAL DISEASE

NO CHANGE

SECTION IX - CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS 1956

TABLE D

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	Pneumonia	1	1	2
	Influenza	1	-	1
	Measles	2	-	2
	Chicken Pox	1	-	1
	Whooping Cough	2	-	1
	Impetigo	1	-	1
	Gastro-enteritis	1	-	1
	Tonsillitis	-	2	2
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	-	-	-	-
Cases landed from other ships	-	-	-	-

SECTION X - OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF
MALARIA IN SHIPS

Apart from one case reported as Malaria in a crew member, who subsequently died from pneumococcal septicaemia, no Malaria was reported in ships arriving at the port during the year.

SECTION XI - MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS
INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No measures were necessary during 1956.

In the event of finding plague-infected rats, vessels would be boomed off and fumigation of all compartments carried out with H.C.N.

SECTION XII - MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS
FROM FOREIGN PORTS

1. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats:

Trade of port consists chiefly of cross-channel traffic, vessels of which are subjected to half-yearly routine inspections in connection with the issue of the necessary certificates under Regulation 19 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

Additionally, any evidence of the presence of rodents on board occurring in the interval would be immediately reported by the British Railways Authority.

Other vessels entering the port are subjected to routine inspection by the Port Health Inspectors.

Port of Dover approved and designated for the issue of both Deratting and Deratting Exemption Certificates under Regulation 19 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

2. Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year:

Although no action was necessary during 1956, any rats found on ships would be sent for necessary examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone.

3. Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor:

Deratting carried out by contractors, viz. Fumigation Services, Ltd., Barking, Essex, using Hydrogen Cyanide gas under direction of Port Health Inspectors.

Minor infestations are dealt with by the Local Authority's Rodent Operator using Warfarin mainly.

4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships:

No actual measures requested during 1956. With regard to the cross-channel vessels, rat proofing of store-rooms

effectively maintained. Any deficiencies found in these or other vessels would be brought to the attention of masters and owners.

TABLE E
RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN
SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Category:	Number:
Black rats	-
Brown rats	-
Species not known	-
Sent for examination	-
Infected with Plague	-

On only one vessel was there found evidence of rat infestation: this was not of recent origin. As the vessel was due to sail on the day of inspection, poisoned baits were deposited as a precautionary measure and the Master advised as to the action to be taken in the case of possible recurrence of rat indications.

On a second vessel, calling to land passengers from Australia, the Master reported the presence of an occasional rat on board during the voyage. The Health Authority of the next British Port of Call was advised.

TABLE F

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE WAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

No. of Deratting Certificates issued				No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
After fumigation with		After trapping	After poisoning		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
U.C.I.	Other fumigant (state method)				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	7.
-	-	-	-	-	25

SECTION XIII -- INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G
INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

Nature and number of Inspections (including re-inspections)	Notices served		Result of serving Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
BRITISH VESSELS 115	-	-	-
FOREIGN VESSELS 83	-	-	-
TOTAL 198	-	-	-

REMARKS:

One British vessel was treated for flea infestation during the year.

SECTION XIV

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH) REGULATIONS,1934 and 1948

NO CHANGE

SECTION XV - MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

(applicable only to ports approved for the landing of aliens)

1. List of Medical Inspectors holding Warrants of Appointment:

Medical Officer of Health
 Dr. T. J. Nicholl
 Drs. C. P. K. Toland and P. H. Garrard
 Drs. D. W. J. Radcliffe, D. W. Hall and R. J. L. Davis
 Dr. T. J. Cobbe

2. List of other staff engaged on this work:

Mrs. K. A. Walker (resigned 28.9.56.)	Aliens Nurse
Miss E. Joy	Relief Nurse
Miss A. E. Knott	Relief Nurse
Mrs. C. L. Whitehorn	Relief Nurse

3. Organisation of work:

No change.

4. Nature and Amount of Aliens Traffic:

Number of Aliens arriving at the Port:-

Year:	1954	1955	1956
Total Aliens:	180,329	236,019	252,615

Aliens dealt with by the Medical Inspector:-

Year:	Total Aliens:	Medically Examined:	Percentage of Total Medically Examined:
1954	180,329	6,340	3.49
1955	236,019	8,395	3.56
1956	252,615	8,817	3.49

Categories in which Aliens were examined:-

1. Holding Ministry of Labour Permits	8,160
2. Intending to make their home in the United Kingdom	324
3. Visitors	310
4. Business Visitors	-
5. Returning Residents	14
6. Aliens in transit	9
7. Others	-
	<u>8,817</u>

The certificates issued to the Immigration Officer numbered 103, nine of the aliens concerned being refused permission to land.

The rate of certificates issued in respect of aliens examined was 1.17% compared with 0.70% for the year 1955.

TABLE I
NATIONALITIES EXAMINED AND CERTIFICATES ISSUED

Nationality:				Males:	Females:	Chil- dren:	Total:	No. of Certifi- cates:
Baltic States	{ Latvian, Poles and Finns			4	20	-	24	1
	{ U.S.S.R. 			-	2	-	2	-
	{ Norwegians, Swedes & Danes			13	70	2	85	-
Middle and Western European States	{ German 			325	3045	5	3375	20
	{ Austrian 			76	451	4	531	7
	{ Swiss 			45	364	1	410	2
	{ French 			61	114	6	181	7
	{ Belgian 			33	41	2	76	3
	{ Italian 			1372	1734	131	3237	29
	{ Spanish and Portuguese			87	323	1	411	2
	{ Czechs and Jugo-Slavs			33	119	31	183	3
	{ Luxembourg & Liechtenstein			2	9	-	11	-
	{ Dutch 			8	39	-	47	-
Eastern European States	{ Hungarian 			22	25	9	56	4
	{ Rumanian and Bulgarian			-	-	-	-	-
	{ Greeks 			20	65	3	88	14
Egypt, Syria, Libya and Asiatic States	{ Lebanese 			1	4	-	5	-
	{ Egypt; Palestine; Iraq; Iran			14	1	1	16	6
	{ Tunis; Israel 			12	4	2	18	2
	{ Yemen 			-	-	-	-	-
	{ Turkish; Armenian ..			4	3	3	10	2
	{ Syrian; Libyan 			-	3	-	3	-
	{ Chinese 			-	6	-	6	-
	{ Japanese 			-	-	-	-	-
	{ Siamese 			-	-	-	-	-
North & South America	{ Central and South America			-	2	-	2	-
	{ U.S.A. 			2	3	-	5	1
	{ Stateless 			13	17	5	35	-
Totals 				2147	6464	206	8817	103

TABLE (2) - MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

Total:	Number subjected to detailed examination by the Medical Inspector:	Certificates Issued:				Trans migrants:
		Unsound mind or mentally defect- ive: (A)	Undesir- able for medical reasons: B (1)	Physical Incapacity and/or likely to require medical treatment: B (2)	Conditionally landed for further medical exami- nation: (C)	
(a) Total number of Aliens landing at the Port	251,979	-	-	91	3	-
(b) Aliens refused per- mission to land by Immigration Officer	636	1	1	7	-	-
Total Aliens arriving	252,615	1	1	98	3	-

Number of Vessels attended by the Medical Inspector .. 1,389 (including 36 liners)

5. Accommodation for medical inspection and examination:

Admiralty Pier:

Inspection of aliens carried out in main Immigration Hall immediately on disembarkation. Two medical rooms provided in main Hall for more detailed inspection and examination as required.

Ferry Dock:

One medical room provided in main building for examination of aliens.

Eastern Dock:

Two medical rooms provided.

SECTION XVI - MISCELLANEOUS

(arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died from infectious disease:)

Interment as soon as possible by arrangement with local Cemeteries Department. Fully equipped mortuary provided by Local Authority for use if required.

SECTION XVII - FOOD INSPECTION

(1) Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925-1940.

Article of Foodstuff	France		Belgium		Italy		Spain		Holland		Algeria		Israel		Canary Islands	
	tons	cwts	tons	cwts	tons	cwts	tons	cwts	tons	cwts	tons	cwts	tons	cwts	tons	cwts
Preserved Fruit	6910	3	-	-	-	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	-	44	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	0
Fresh Fruit	189	10	-	-	3003	-	4585	-	39	-	-	-	1413	-	214	-
Frozen Fruit	31	0	-	-	-	5	-	9	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vegetables	23	14	-	-	254	-	1356	-	2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canned Snails	14	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cooked Meats	-	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spices	4	10	-	-	55	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweetbreads	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Butter	144	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preserved Food	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fish	-	-	410	18 $\frac{1}{4}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frozen Fish	-	-	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tinned Fish	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smoked Fish	-	-	-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shrimps	-	-	7	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chicory	-	-	7	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuts	-	-	-	-	67	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frozen Prawns	-	-	-	-	7	16	-	-	-	-	11	16	-	-	-	-
Dates	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tomato puree	30	0	-	-	33	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fresh Truffles	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preserves	12	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7364	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	428	6	3421	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	5943	13	2039	16	11	16	1413	4	214	0

GRAND TOTAL: 20,836 tons 14 cwts.

No foodstuffs from the above imports were condemned during the year as being unfit for human consumption.

Following a collision at sea, approximately 58 tons of mutton and pork contaminated by sea water were landed for disposal. The meat was released on receipt of an undertaking that it would be diverted to industrial purposes.

2. Action under Articles 11 and 12 of the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937.

Details of Consignment:

Action taken:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Bundles Sausage Casings (20 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.) | Detained and exported. |
| 2. Bundles Sausage Casings ($\frac{1}{2}$ lb.) | Detained and exported. |
| 3. Ham (15 lbs.) | Detained and exported. |

All the above were consigned by parcel post and were received at the G.P.O. Foreign Parcels Section; none was accompanied by an Official Certificate.

3. Number of Samples of Food examined by:-

- (a) Bacteriologist:- Nil
(b) Analyst:- 18

1. Dates (French): Sample sound, of good appearance and free from preservatives; clean.
2. Smoked Salmon (Belgian): Can in good condition internally and externally. No signs of deterioration of contents which were free from poisonous metals and preservatives.
3. Canned Natural Snails (French): Sample free from lead and arsenic but contained copper to extent of 27 parts per million in dried snails; in the residual liquid there was copper to the extent of 2 parts per million. While the amount of copper was, in the opinion of the Public Analyst, high enough to call for comment, it could not be regarded as sufficient to render the snails injurious in any way.
4. Grape Fruit (Israelian): Thiourea not present.
5. Canned Truffles (French): Genuine French truffles, free from preservatives and poisonous metals.
6. Drained Cherries (French): }
7. Drained Cherries (French): }
8. Drained Cherries (French): }

From one consignment.

The samples were free from benzoate preservative and injurious metallic contamination. Sulphite preservative was present to the extent of 30 parts per million, calculated as sulphur dioxide, in Sample No. 8, and the amount was within the limit set by the Preservatives Regulations; Samples 6 and 7 were free from sulphite preservatives. Samples Nos. 6 and 7 were darker than the normal product, No. 7 moreso than No. 6; the Public Analyst remarked that No. 7 appeared to have been overcooked and that some of the sugar had been converted into caramel which could have coloured the cherries. Although these last two samples had to be regarded as satisfactory they could only be described as of poor quality.

9. Canned Peas (French): Can free from corrosion and contents free from toxic metals and sulphite preservative.

10. Butter (French): Free from foreign fats and rancidity.
Boron preservative was not present and the moisture content was 15.1 per cent.
11. Greengages (Spanish): Sample free from arsenical contamination and sulphur; powdery deposit free from toxic metals. Powder on fruit appeared to be inert and was possibly the "filler" used in an insecticide; it contained no harmful material.
12. Butter (French): Free from foreign fats and rancidity.
Preservative was not found in the sample which contained 15.6% moisture.
13. Drained Cherries (French): Clean and firm, containing sulphur preservative to the extent of 100 parts of sulphur dioxide per million.
14. Tomato Puree (French): Free from sulphite and boric preservative. Arsenic was not found and the amount of copper was 6 parts per million.
15. Crystallised Fruit (French): Sulphite preservative present to the extent of 95 parts per million; neither poisonous metals nor arsenic were found.
16. Crystallised Angelica (French): Sample free from preservatives and toxic metals; no prohibited colour.
17. Drained Cherries (French): Sulphite preservative present to the extent of 100 parts per million as sulphur dioxide; poisonous metals were not found.
18. Dates (Algerian): Free from sulphur and boron preservatives. Sample free from excessive dirt and neither arsenic nor poisonous metals were found.

